

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2010

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTS SANGAMON COUNTY
STATE'S ATTORNEY JOHN P. SCHMIDT AS CIRCUIT JUDGE**

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Wednesday that Sangamon County State's Attorney John P. Schmidt has been appointed a circuit judge at-large in the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Schmidt was appointed to fill the Circuit Court vacancy created by the appointment of Judge Thomas Appleton to the Fourth District Appellate Court. The appointment is effective October 1, 2010 and will expire December 3, 2012.

Justice Rita B. Garman recommended the appointment of Mr. Schmidt after a review process by a special citizen screening committee. The committee unanimously recommended Mr. Schmidt's appointment to Justice Garman to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Schmidt graduated from Western Illinois University in 1987 with a B.S. degree in History. He received his *juris doctor* degree from University of Tulsa in 1990. Before his appointment to the bench, Mr. Schmidt served as special assistant U.S. attorney from 1990-1992; he was responsible for prosecution of federal law violations, advising federal law enforcement agencies and preparing briefs for the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

From 1992-1995, he served as Sangamon County assistant state's attorney. While there, he prosecuted various types of traffic, misdemeanor and felony cases. Subsequently, Mr. Schmidt served as first assistant state's attorney for four years until his appointment as Sangamon County State's Attorney in 1999. He has since won election to that position three times, most recently in 2008.

Mr. Schmidt has served as member of the board of directors, treasurer and president of the Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois and as chairman of the Sangamon Child Advocacy Center.

A resident of Springfield, Mr. Schmidt is married with one child.

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Justice Garman's special screening committee, which reviewed the candidates, consisted of four non-lawyers and three lawyers.

The non-lawyer members were: Chairperson Howard Peters of Springfield; Jacksonville resident Jim Bruner, Rochester resident Carolyn Moore and Springfield resident Tim Schweizer.

The lawyers on the committee were the Hon. Ron Robinson (retired) of Winchester, Peggy Ryan and Jon G. Noll, both of Springfield.

The Seventh Judicial Circuit is comprised of six counties: Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, Sangamon and Scott.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Joseph R. Tybor, press secretary to the
Illinois Supreme Court, at 312-793-2323).**